

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday 8th March 2016 in Sadberge Village Hall

Present: Councillors Heath, Best, Schott and Smith.

In attendance: Alastair Mackenzie – Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Heywood, Lazenby and Tate, and the reasons for their absence were approved.

There were apologies from Ward Councillors Brian Jones, Doris Jones and Steve York.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9-Feb-2016 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

4. Wind farms near Sadberge

Banks Renewables' Community Relations Manager, Lewis Stokes, was present for this item

- 4.1 Construction work has started on the Lambs Hill wind farm near Stillington, and a Liaison Committee has been set up.
- 4.2 Site investigation work will be carried out on the Moor House wind farm site over the next 4 – 6 weeks. Construction work will start in late November or December 2016, and will take 9 – 12 months.
- 4.3 In late August or September Lewis Stokes will write to local parish councils about setting up a Liaison Committee for the Moor House wind farm. The Liaison Committee will provide a forum for communication between Banks Renewables and the local communities. Meetings will probably be held every 6 – 8 weeks during the construction period. The Parish Council will be invited to nominate a representative on the Liaison Committee.
- 4.4 There will be a Transport Management Plan for the construction activities, and there will be an agreed route for abnormal loads (e.g. the turbine blades). The transport arrangements will take account of local residents' views where possible.
- 4.5 The Moor House Community Fund will be available as soon as the wind farm starts operating.
- 4.6 Lewis Stokes can be contacted via 0844-264-4563 (office), 07713-392364 (mobile) or lewis.stokes@banksgroup.co.uk.

5. Bishop of Durham's visit to Sadberge

- 5.1 The St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council had requested permission for the Bishop of Durham to hold an open-air Ascension Day service on Sadberge village green on the evening of Thursday 5-May-2016.
- 5.2 It was agreed to grant the requested permission, subject to a simplified licence.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

6. Matters arising from previous meetings

- 6.1 The Clerk presented a draft letter to Darlington Borough Council's Senior Arboricultural Officer, Phil Haynes, about the self-seeded trees between Hampass and Town Farm Field. The Parish Council approved the letter subject to one amendment. The Clerk will send the letter to Phil Haynes, with copies to his line manager and the relevant Assistant Director.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

/ continued

- 6.2 There was no news about development in and around Middleton St. George.
- 6.3 There was no news about the proposed development on the site of the old reservoir adjacent to Sadberge.
- 6.4 There was no news about the planning application for the erection of three houses on land behind the Buck Inn.
- 6.5 The Senior Lecturer at the Wimbledon College of Art is putting together a proposal for one of his students to do the artwork for a bronze sculpture of an elderly man sitting on a bench.
- 6.6 Sadberge Village Hall and The Tuns at Sadberge have been listed as Assets of Community Value. The owner of the Buck Inn has raised a question about the different areas within the property boundary:-
 - 1. The uncultivated land at the NE end of the property.
 - 2. The former beer garden and children's play area.
 - 3. The building and the car park.

The Parish Council agreed to a proposal by Darlington Borough Council's Planning Services Manager that the Borough Council will determine the nomination of the Buck Inn as an Asset of Community value on the basis of areas 2 and 3, excluding area 1.

- 6.7 Updating the Parish Council's banking arrangements is nearly complete, but Councillor Lee has still to get a certified copy of a suitable proof of address. **ACTION:** Councillor Tate
- 6.8 Durham Constabulary's safety camera van has been deployed in Sadberge again.
- 6.9 It was agreed to defer writing to Northumbrian Water about the hazards posed by the old reservoir adjacent to Sadberge Village.
- 6.10 The Clerk has still to ask Darlington Borough Council to move the dog dirt bin from the entrance to the sewage works north of Sadberge to the south side of Norton Road at the eastern edge of the village (near the cut-through to Dale Road). **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

7. The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations

- 7.1 The Clerk will contact Northumbrian Water again about the Parish Council's request for permission for access to light the Sadberge beacon on Thursday 21-Apr-2016 as part of the celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 7.2 The Parish Council noted the availability of commemorative medals.

8. New bench

- 8.1 The bench has been returned to the supplier and the Clerk has received a full refund.
- 8.2 Discussion of alternative benches was deferred until the next meeting.

9. Traffic in Sadberge

- 9.1 Local residents have expressed concern about the volume of traffic in the centre of the village in the early morning. Children coming to catch school buses are crossing roads between cars, which could lead to accidents. There is also concern about the levels of pollution from car exhausts.
- 9.2 It was pointed out that the school buses used to do two pick-ups, one from each side of the road, but that they now only appear to be doing one pick-up.
- 9.3 The Clerk will investigate ways of getting pollution levels measured / monitored. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

10. Infrastructure in and around Sadberge

- 10.1 The surface of the footpath beside Middleton Road south of Sadberge Village is crumbled and uneven. The Clerk will take photographs and bring them to the next meeting. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie
- 10.2 The Clerk will ask Darlington Borough Council to clean out the drains on Middleton Road. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

11. Cottage on Middleton Road

There is a large crack in the front wall of the unoccupied cottage near the junction of Church Lane and Middleton Road, and it is not clear whether the structure is secure. The Clerk will contact the owner of the cottage to communicate the Parish Council's concerns. **ACTION:** A Mackenzie

12. Planning

The Parish Council approved the following planning application without comment:-

- 16/00086/FUL Construction of a driveway and dropped kerb to allow vehicular access to the road at 23 Norton Road

13. Council Tax Support Grant funding

13.1 The Parish Council noted that Darlington Borough Council's proposal to discontinue passing on Council Tax Support Grant funding to parish councils will be discussed at a special meeting of the Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC) on Wednesday 16-Mar-2016.

13.2 It was agreed to discuss this issue at the next meeting.

14. Proposed changes to parish council involvement in planning applications

14.1 Darlington Borough Council has stopped sending planning documents to parish councils.

14.2 It was pointed out that in order to have an effective discussion about a planning application the Parish Council needs to have the relevant documents – including site plans, etc. – on the table during a meeting. Some of the diagrams need to be printed at A3 size, and the Parish Council does not have facilities to print at A3 size.

14.3 It was agreed to write to John Anderson, Darlington Borough Council's Assistant Director for Economic Initiatives, to object to his decision to stop sending planning documents to parish councils. The Clerk will finalise the wording of the letter in consultation with Councillor Heath.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

15. Social media

15.1 A lot of comments about local issues are now being expressed via social media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. For example, there has recently been discussion on social media about the two car crashes at the Sadberge central crossroads and about the school bus having to pull in at an angle because of a parked car.

15.2 There are questions about whether and how the Parish Council should interact with social media. For example:-

- Should the Parish Council have a mechanism for being aware of the issues being discussed and the opinions being expressed on social media?
- Should the Parish Council respond to comments being made on social media?
- Should the Parish Council use social media to communicate with local residents?

15.3 Councillor Smith will bring a print-out of relevant social media posts to the next meeting.

ACTION: Councillor Smith

16. Darlington Association of Parish Councils (DAPC)

16.1 Subjects discussed at the DAPC meeting on Wednesday 10-Feb-2016 included:-

- The practicalities of dealing with the parish council boundary changes being implemented as a result of the Community Governance Review.
- What Darlington Borough Council is doing about housing planning policy and a Local Plan for Darlington following the Planning Inspector's ruling that the Borough Council cannot demonstrate that it has a five-year supply of land to meet objectively assessed housing needs.

16.2 Councillor Smith will try to attend the extra DAPC meeting being held in the Darlington Fire Station at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday 16-Mar-2016. **ACTION:** Councillor Smith

16.3 The Clerk will check whether Councillor Tate will be able to attend the meeting.

ACTION: A Mackenzie

17. North Villages PACT

- 17.1 There was no police representative at the PACT meeting in Sadberge Village Hall on Thursday 18-Feb-2016.
- 17.2 The PACT priorities remain unchanged, although the Bishopton Mill Bridge issue should be resolved soon.
- 17.3 It was noted that the next PACT meeting will be held in Bishopton Village Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 24-Mar-2016.

18. Payments

The following payment was approved:-

- Clerk's salary £1,200.00

19. Correspondence

The Parish Council noted the following correspondence:-

- Request for a grant to support the Moors Bus.

20. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following items were proposed for the next meeting:-

- New bench.
- Darlington Borough Council's proposal to discontinue passing on Council Tax Support Grant funding to parish councils.
- The Parish Council's interaction with social media.
- Caravan at Wayside on Hill House Lane north of Sadberge Village.

21. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Sadberge Parish Council will be held at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday 12-Apr-2016.

Alastair Mackenzie
Clerk to Sadberge Parish Council

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8th MARCH 2016.

I hereby certify that these minutes are a true record of the meeting.

Signed: Councillor L Tate _____ Date _____